

What is Claimed:

1. A zipper locking device comprising:

a zipper that is selectively and alternatively adjustable between an open position and a closed position, the zipper having a length and comprising two rows of teeth, the rows of teeth being intermeshed with each other when the zipper is in the closed position and being separated from each other for a substantial portion of the length of the zipper when the zipper is in the open position;

a slider that is slidably connected to each of the rows of teeth such that the slider is movable between first and second positions along the rows of teeth, the slider being configured and adapted to intermesh the rows of teeth together when the slider is moved from the first position to the second position and to separate the rows of teeth from each other when the slider is moved from the second position to the first position such that the zipper is in the open position when the slider is in the first position and such that the zipper is in the closed position when the slider is in the second position, the slider comprising a main body and a loop; and

a locking member that is operatively connected to the zipper, the locking member comprising a loop, one of the loops of the slider and the locking member constituting a first loop and the other of the loops constituting a second loop, the first loop being adapted and configured to be at

least partially passable through the second loop when the slider is in the second position and being configured and adapted to allow a bolt of a lock to be positioned extending therethrough, the second loop being configured and adapted to prevent the passage of the first loop through the second loop when the bolt of the lock is positioned extending through the first loop such that the movement of the slider towards the first position is limited when the bolt of the lock is positioned extending through the first loop.

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2. A zipper locking device in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the first loop is the loop of the slider and the second loop is the loop of the locking member.

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3. A zipper locking device in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the loop of the locking member is rigid.

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4. A zipper locking device in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the loop of the slider is integrally formed as a monolithic piece together with the main body of the slider.

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5. A zipper locking device in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the slider further comprises a pull loop and a pull tab, the pull tab being pivotally connected to the pull loop of the zipper in a manner such that the pull tab is movable relative to main body of the slider.

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6. A zipper locking device in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the loop of the slider is a closed loop.

5 7. A piece of baggage comprising a zipper locking device in accordance with Claim 1.

8. A method of locking a zipper in a closed position comprising:

10 providing a zipper that is selectively and alternatively adjustable between an open position and a closed position, the zipper having a length and comprising two rows of teeth, the rows of teeth being intermeshed with each other when the zipper is in the closed position and
15 being separated from each other for a substantial portion of the length of the zipper when the zipper is in the open position;

providing a slider that is slidably connected to each of the rows of teeth such that the slider is movable between
20 first and second positions along the rows of teeth, the slider being configured and adapted to intermesh the rows of teeth together when the slider is moved from the first position to the second position and to separate the rows of teeth from each other when the slider is moved from the
25 second position to the first position such that the zipper is in the open position when the slider is in the first position

9. and such that the zipper is in the closed position when the slider is in the second position, the slider comprising a main body and a loop;

providing a locking member, the locking member being
5 operatively connected to the zipper and comprising a loop, one of the loops of the slider and the locking member constituting a first loop and the other of the loops constituting a second loop;

providing a lock comprising a bolt;

10 sliding the slider to the second position such that the zipper is in the closed position;

passing at least a portion of the first loop through the second loop when the slider is in the second position; and

15 positioning the bolt of the lock in a manner such that the bolt extends through the portion of the first loop and such that the bolt prevents the portion of the first loop from passing back through the second loop so as to limit the slider from moving from the second position toward the first
20 position.

9. A method of locking a zipper in a closed position in accordance with Claim 8 wherein the loop of the slider is rigidly fixed to the main body of the slider and wherein the
25 step of passing at least the portion of the first loop through the other of the loops further comprises passing at

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least a portion of the loop of the slider through the loop of the locking member.

10. A method of locking a zipper in a closed position in accordance with Claim 9 wherein the loop of the locking member is pivotal about an axis relative to the zipper and wherein the step of passing at least the portion of the first loop through the second loop further comprises pivoting the loop of the locking member about the axis to cause the portion of the loop of the slider to pass through the loop of the locking member.

11. A method of locking an opening of an internal compartment of a piece of baggage in a closed position comprising:

providing a piece of baggage comprising an internal compartment having an opening that connects the internal compartment to an environment external to the piece of baggage; and

locking the opening of the internal compartment of the piece of baggage by performing the method of locking a zipper in a closed position in accordance with Claim 8.